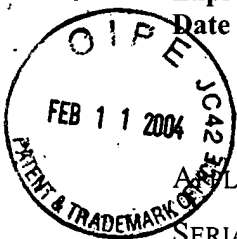


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Ellington et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/666,870

EXAMINER: Jon D. Epperson, Ph.D.

FILING DATE: September 20, 2000

ART UNIT: 1639

FOR: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR IDENTIFYING ALLOSTERICALLY REGULATED RIBOZYMES

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Boston, Massachusetts

February 11, 2004

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

This Response and Amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action (Paper No. 22) mailed August 11, 2003 in the above-identified patent application. With a three-month extension, these documents are due on or before February 11, 2004. Applicants submit herewith a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time, along with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a). Applicants believe no additional fees are due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 23239-301B.

Applicants submit this paper in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114 and the required fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e). This paper constitutes a proper submission in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c).

Please consider the following remarks:

A listing of the currently pending claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.